

Severity Classification for Anaphylactoid Reactions to Intravenous Contrast

This document serves as a template for anaphylactoid (allergic-like) contrast reactions which may require steroid premedication prior to future CTs with intravenous iodinated contrast. Recall that physiologic reactions do not require steroid preps.

Physiologic Reactions – NO STEROID PREP REQUIRED

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Transient flushing or chills
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Anxiety
- Hypertension
- Altered taste
- Vasovagal reaction
- Chest pain
- Arrhythmias
- Seizures.

Use the following schema to fit a reaction into mild, moderate, or severe categories. In general, the more hemodynamic instability, the more severe a reaction is.

Mild Reactions (no vital sign disruption):

- Limited urticaria or pruritis
- Limited subcutaneous edema
- Limited itchy throat
- Nasal Congestion and/or rhinorrhea
- Sneezing
- Conjunctivitis

Moderate Reactions:

- Diffuse urticaria or pruritis
- Diffuse cutaneous erythema with stable vitals
- Facial edema without shortness of breath
- Throat tightness or hoarseness without shortness of breath
- Wheezing or bronchospasm with mild/no hypoxia.

Severe Reactions (always have hemodynamic instability):

- Diffuse erythema with hypotension
- Diffuse facial or body edema with dyspnea
- Laryngeal edema with stridor and/or hypoxia
- Wheezing or bronchospasm with significant hypoxia
- Anaphylactic shock

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